

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV
President
Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Report required by Ed. Art. § 7-1502(g)(18) (MSAR # 11570) and § 7-1508(e)(3) (MSAR # 11591)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 1265) Ed. Art. § 7-1502(g)(18) (MSAR # 11570) and § 7-1508(e)(3) (MSAR # 11591), the Maryland Center of School Safety (MCSS) respectfully submits this report summarizing School Resource Officer (SRO) and adequate law enforcement coverage within each local school systems' jurisdiction for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at, kate.hession1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Kate Hession
Executive Director



2020 Annual School Resource Officers / Adequate Coverage Report

Submitted by: Kate Hession, Executive Director | *Prepared by:* Craig Meister and Jeyan Jebaraj

Annually, on or before October 1, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) must provide the Governor and General Assembly with a summary of the school resource officer coverage and *adequate coverage reports*¹ that each local school system shares with MCSS by the start of each school year.

Much has changed in our world since our last report. The ongoing pandemic has led to a proliferation of online instruction, which still continues. When schools are not in session on campus, assigned SROs have found themselves serving their communities in critical, if unexpected, ways. Maryland SROs have and will continue to perform wellness checks, support school systems with food distribution, and perform other duties for the duration of virtual learning.

Yet, this year, like last year, it is important to note that the nature of law enforcement *adequate coverage* varies, and it often takes the form of:

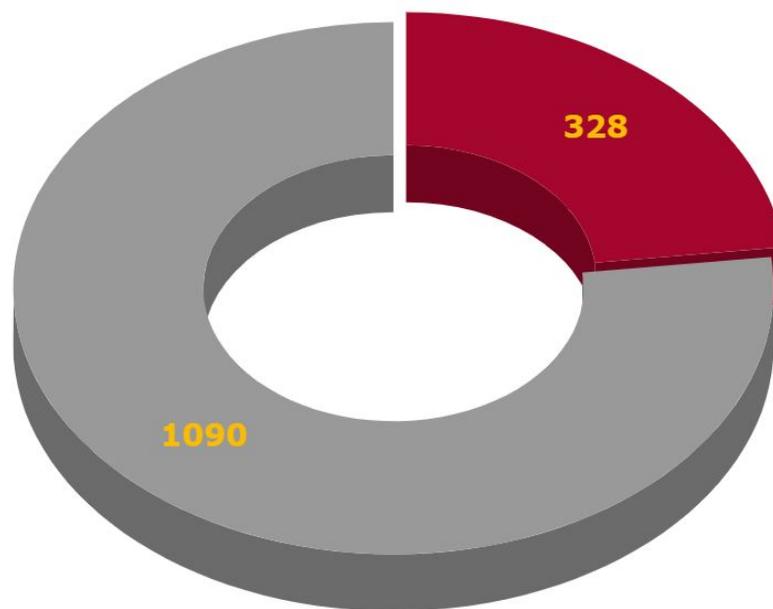
- sheriff's deputies working overtime to provide adequate coverage to public schools;
- patrol deputies who respond to calls for service at schools that do not have an assigned SRO;
- SRO supervisors, who are not routinely assigned to a specific school, who provide supplemental patrol service and respond to calls for service at public schools when needed;
- State police agencies who conduct school safety checks in their area of patrol; and/or
- officers/deputies who are not SROs who are permitted access to the school building so they can check emails and conduct other official business while at the school or on school property.

¹ Each local school system's report must include the public schools in the local school system's jurisdiction that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and, if a public school in the local school system's jurisdiction is not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the public school.

SROs and school security employees in Maryland complete the Maryland Center for School Safety’s five-day SRO training curriculum; yet, individuals providing “adequate law enforcement coverage” to schools without assigned SROs are not required to complete this comprehensive training. Topics covered in our SRO training curriculum include De-escalation, Disability Awareness, Maintaining a Positive School Climate, Constructive Interactions with Students, Implicit Bias, and Disability and Diversity Awareness with specific attention to Racial and Ethnic Disparities. This holistic training prepares the SRO to fulfill four distinct roles within a school community: the Role of Educator, the Role of Emergency Manager, the Role of Informal Counselor, and the Role of Law Enforcement.

Data presented below are based on reports received from Maryland’s twenty-four local school systems.

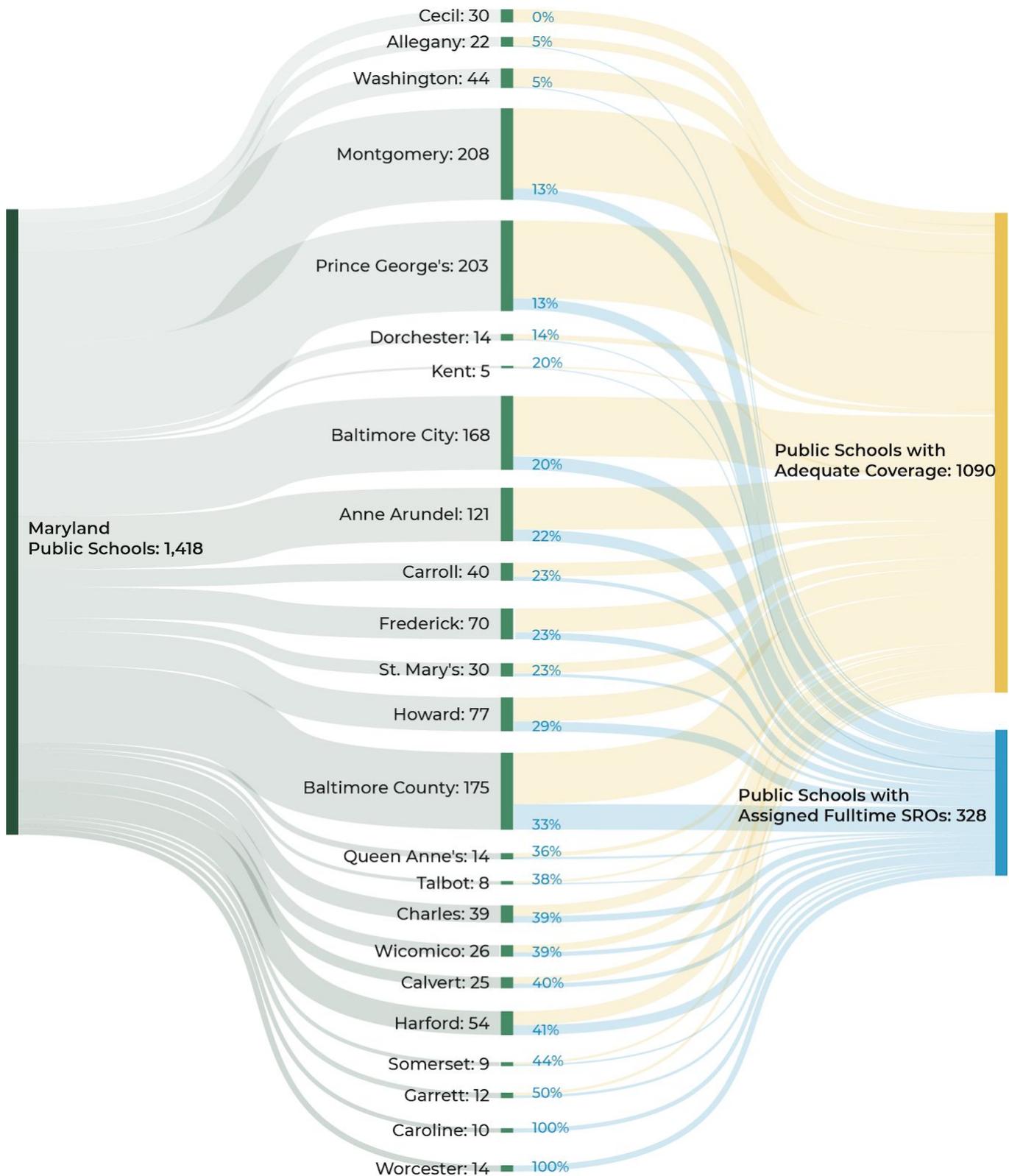
Maryland Public Schools with Assigned SROs



- Schools with Assigned SROs (23%)
- Schools with Adequate Coverage (77%)

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Jurisdiction	Number of Public Schools	Number of SROs	Number of Schools with Full Time Assigned SRO	Number of Schools with Adequate Law Enforcement Coverage
Allegany	22	7	1	21
Anne Arundel	121	27	26	95
Baltimore	175	83	58	117
Baltimore City	168	83	33	135
Calvert	25	10	10	15
Caroline	10	8	10	0
Carroll	40	13	9	31
Cecil	30	6	0	30
Charles	39	17	15	24
Dorchester	14	3	2	12
Frederick	70	19	16	54
Garrett	12	6	6	6
Harford	54	22	22	32
Howard	77	22	22	55
Kent	5	1	1	4
Montgomery	208	26	26	182
Prince George's	203	29	26	177
Queen Anne's	14	5	5	9
St. Mary's	30	7	7	23
Somerset	9	5	4	5
Talbot	8	4	3	5
Washington	44	10	2	42
Wicomico	26	10	10	16
Worcester	14	16	14	0
Total	1,418	439	328	1090



The Sankey diagram above is a visualization of the proportion of public schools in each local school system that are served by assigned School Resource Officers (SROs) versus law enforcement adequate coverage.